REMARKS

Prior to entry of this amendment, Claims 1-28 and 31-35 were pending in the application. By this amendment, Claims 1, 4, 7, 26, 28 and 31-35 are cancelled, Claims 15 and 21 are amended, and Claims 36-41 are added. Hence, Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 8-25, 27 and 36-41 are pending in the application after entry of this amendment.

Cancelled Claims

Claims 1, 4, 7, 26, 28 and 31-35, which stand rejected, are cancelled. Cancellation of these claims places the application in condition for allowance.

Amended Claims

Claims 15 and 21 are amended to more accurately convey the embodiments recited therein. No new matter is introduced into the application by way of these amendments.

New Claims

New Claims 36-38 and 39-41 recite, in alternative formats, the same limitations as are recited in allowable method Claims 15 and 21, respectively. Hence, no new matter is introduced into the application by way of these amendments.

Claims 36-41 are patentable over the cited references of record for the same reasons as Claims 15 and 21. Therefore, allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

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CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claim (2, 3, 5, 6, 8-25, 27 and 36-41) are now in condition for allowance. Therefore, the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance is believed next in order, and that action is most earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that such contact would further the examination of the present application.

Please charge any shortages or credit any overages to Deposit Account No. 50-1302.

Respectfully submitted, HICKMAN PALERMO TRUONG & BECKER LLP

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

on April 2 \mathcal{I}_{2005}